

Discussant of Honor to our International Business Course

Monday, Nov. 15th; Regular Class Time/Location; Attendance Required

Please consider the topic of discussion (below) and research (even just Google) the topics, e.g., of: Afghan War Carpets, War Textiles, Afghan business, Women in Business: Afghanistan).

Think of one or two well-thought out and interesting questions for our guest of honor. Please turn in these typed questions to me in class on Monday Nov 8th.

This is a wonderful opportunity to talk about some issues that are too often brushed aside in considerations of international business. I hope you enjoy this addition to our course!

The Origins of the Taliban Gender Policy

While the Taliban regime's treatment of women has received a great deal of global attention in the past few years, the origins of their measures against women and the circumstances that made their enforcement possible have been largely overlooked. Reports and studies on the Taliban gender policies have delineated these policies almost exclusively as a phenomenon developed by religious students of Pashtun stock trained in the madrasas along the border and some have even attributed them to the influence Pashtunwali, or Pashtun code of behavior.

I will examine the cultural, political, and theological origins of the Taliban's gender policies and the historical events leading to the development of extreme attitudes toward women in Afghanistan.

Nawid's Short Biography

I was born and raised in Afghanistan. I went to school in Kabul but received part of my training in India and Iran, where my father served as an Afghan diplomat. I graduated from Malalai High School (French girls school in Kabul). Shortly after obtaining a bachelor degree in history at Kabul University, I received a Fulbright scholarship to pursue an MA degree in history at the University of Denver.

I taught in the History Department of Kabul University before coming to the University of Arizona under the Fulbright Exchange of Scholars program to teach history of modern Afghanistan and Persian language. After completing a semester of teaching, I was admitted in the Ph.D. program in the Near Eastern Studies at the University of Arizona and was able to complete my graduate work with financial support from several grant agencies, including the Asia Foundation and the American Association of University Women(AAUW).

I have taught modern and medieval history of Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia, and Persian language and literature at the University of Arizona, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and at New York University. I have also guest lectured at several other universities, including Duke University, and the University of Pennsylvania. I worked on two separate committees (Women, Family, and Society, and Higher Education) in the Afghanistan-America Summit on Recovery and Reconstruction, held at Georgetown University in June and July of 2002. I have also been actively involved in the formation of the American Institute of Afghanistan Studies, serving as a steering committee member at its founding sessions at Duke University last April.

My book, "Religious Response to Social Change in Afghanistan: King Aman-Allah and the Afghan Ulama, 1919-1929", which was published by Mazda Publishers in 1999, deals with interactions between the state and clergy in Afghanistan and the problems of implementing social change in a tribal Muslim society.

I am presently affiliated with the Women's Studies Department at the University of Arizona and am working on a new book titled "Women, the State, and Revolution in Afghanistan." The field research for this project was completed under the auspices of the American Institute of Pakistan Studies in Peshawar, where the largest population of Afghan refugees reside.